IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 10 and 13 and ADD claim 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information use frequency prediction program which causes a computer to function as:

a temporal operation unit which sequentially performs temporal ~~operation~~operations in a unit of predetermined ~~time~~times, ~~sequentially,~~ the temporal operations being performed with respect to ~~the~~ a relative relation between a first pattern of a first data including use frequency based on first time series information ~~representing~~ that represents a temporal change ~~related to~~of the use frequency of the first time series information of the first data, and a second pattern of a second data including use frequency of second time series information ~~and representing~~ that represents a temporal change ~~related to~~of the use frequency of the second time series information based on the second data;

a correlation coefficient calculation unit which calculates a correlation coefficient between the first time series information and the second time series information, for each unit of the predetermined ~~time~~times based on the relative relation between the first and second patterns;

a pair specifying unit which specifies a pair of the first time series information and the second time series information, corresponding to the correlation coefficient having the highest value, of a plurality of correlation coefficients calculated by the correlation coefficient calculation unit; and

a prediction unit which predicts additional data of the use frequency of the first time series information constituting the pair, based on the second pattern corresponding to the pair, and

wherein a time corresponding to each data contained in the first data is different from a time corresponding to the additional data.

2. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the temporal operation unit performs the temporal operation, with regard to all combinations of a plurality of first time series information belonging to a first group, and a

plurality of second time series information belonging to a second group.

3. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 2, which causes a computer to function as sort unit which sorts a plurality of prediction results in the prediction unit, by using the use frequency as a key.

4. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the temporal operation unit shifts the second time series information, sequentially on the time base in a unit of the predetermined time, based on the first time series information.

5. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the temporal operation unit expands or contracts the second time series information time wise, sequentially, in a unit of predetermined expansion and contraction, based on the first time series information.

6. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the temporal operation unit shifts the second time series information, sequentially on the time base in a unit of the predetermined time, and expands and contracts the shifted second time series information time wise, sequentially, in a unit of predetermined expansion and contraction, based on the first time series information.

7. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the first time series information and the second time series information are time series information of use frequency of keywords in a keyword search engine on the Internet.

8. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the first time series information and the second time series information are collected via different collection routes.

9. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction program according to claim 1, wherein the first time series information and the second time series information are collected via the same collection route, and the collected time series information is grouped into two.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information use frequency prediction apparatus,

· comprising:

a temporal operation unit which sequentially performs temporal operationsoperation in a unit of predetermined timetimes, sequentially, the temporal operations being performed with respect to the a relative relation between a first pattern of a first data including use frequency of first time series information representingthat represents a temporal change related toof the use frequency of the first time series information based on the first data, and a second pattern of a second data including use frequency of second time series information representingthat represents a temporal change related toof the use frequency of the second time series information based on the second data;

a correlation coefficient calculation unit which calculates a correlation coefficient between the first time series information and the second time series information, for each unit of the predetermined timetimes based on the relative relation between the first and second patterns;

a pair specifying unit which specifies a pair of the first time series information and the second time series information, corresponding to the correlation coefficient having the highest value, of a plurality of correlation coefficients calculated by the correlation coefficient calculation unit; and

a prediction unit which predicts additional data of the use frequency of the first time series information constituting the pair, based on the second pattern corresponding to the pair, and

wherein a time corresponding to each data contained in the first data is different from a time corresponding to the additional data.

11. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the temporal operation unit shifts the second time series information on the time base, sequentially, in a unit of predetermined time, based on the first time series information.

12. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the temporal operation unit expands or contracts the second time series information time wise, sequentially, in a unit of predetermined expansion and contraction, based on the first time series information.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An information use frequency prediction method, comprising:

a temporal operation step of sequentially performing temporal operation operations in a

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unit of predetermined ~~time~~times, ~~sequentially,~~ the temporal operations being performed with respect to ~~the~~ a relative relation between a first pattern of first data including use frequency based on first time series information ~~representing~~that represents a temporal change ~~related to~~of the use frequency of the first time series information based on the first data, and a second pattern of second data including use frequency of second time series information ~~representing~~ that represents a temporal change ~~related to~~of the use frequency of the second time series information based on the second data;

~~a correlation coefficient calculation step of~~ calculating a correlation coefficient between the first time series information and the second time series information, for each unit of the predetermined ~~time~~times based on the relative relation between the first and second patterns;

~~a pair specifying step of~~ specifying a pair of the first time series information and the second time series information, corresponding to the correlation coefficient having the highest value, of a plurality of correlation coefficients calculated by the correlation coefficient calculation step; and

~~a prediction step of~~ predicting additional data of the use frequency of the first time series information constituting the pair, based on the second pattern corresponding to the pair~~.~~, and wherein a time corresponding to each data contained in the first data is different from a time corresponding to the additional data.

14. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction method according to claim 13, wherein in the temporal operation step, the second time series information is shifted on the time base, sequentially, in a unit of predetermined time, based on the first time series information.

15. (ORIGINAL) The information use frequency prediction method according to claim 13, wherein in the temporal operation step, the second time series information is expanded or contracted time wise, sequentially, in a unit of predetermined expansion and contraction, based on the first time series information.

16. (NEW) An information use frequency prediction method, comprising:

storing first and second search logs resulting from first and second searches relating to first and second keywords, respectfully;

obtaining first and second patterns from the first and second search logs, the first and second patterns each including use frequency and time information;

comparing the first and second patterns;

calculating a correlation coefficient between the first and second patterns based on the comparison; and

predicting a subsequent use of the first keyword based on the correlation and use of the second keyword.